

VERA JANE CAMPBELL WOODFIELD

History written in 1967

Author - Assumed to be Vera

Vera Jane Campbell was the 11th Child of Warren and Mary Eliza White Campbell. She was born the 17th of November 1903, in Liberty, Utah. Due to the ill health of her Father two years later the family bought a home in North Ogden, on 550 East 2600 North, just one block west of the old North Ogden Church and now the present Ben Lomond Stake House (1967). She was blessed the 7th of February 1904, and baptized the 5th of May 1912, in the Coldwater Creek in North Ogden, Weber County, by Lorenzo Ward. She was confirmed on the 5th of May 1912, by Thomas Storey. One thing that stands out in her memory about her baptism, was her fear of water, she was so frightened about being in the water that she went into the bedroom and locked herself in. It took much pleading and begging from her parents to get her to unlock the door and come out.

Her father and mother had 14 children; Louise, Geneva, Delbert, Myrtle, Luella, Etta, Bessie, John Floyd, Curtis, Vera, Doral, Cyrus (who died when one month old) and Donald. At the present time (1967 those living are: Myrtle, Luella, Bessie, Vera, Doral and Donald. There was one son, Delbert born in the middle of 6 girls and Vera was born in the middle of 6 boys. The first part of her life was really nice and interesting. She had plenty of sisters to make a fuss over her and spoil her with very little work or responsibility. Her sisters had their boyfriends coming to see them all the time and they would make a fuss over her and bring her candy and presents and very often would take her along with them in their buggy. One brother-in-law (George Alvord) brought her a large beautiful doll once when he came to date her sister Luella. She was playing with the doll one day outside, and laid it down for a minute. Her brothers were playing ball and one of them threw the ball and it hit the doll and mashed its face. Her sisters were soon all married and that left Vera home with 5 big brothers to wash and iron for. Up until then her Mother had a lot of help from all the girls. However, her mother's health was so poor that Vera was left with a lot of work and responsibility. This made a big change in her life. Her mother was a great lover of flowers and would go out every morning in the summertime and work in her flower garden and would leave the housework for Vera to do. They had a very large berry patch and when the berries had to be picked it meant getting up at 5 a.m. and picking until dark. They would leave the shady rows of berries to be picked in the hot part of the day. The berry season would last at least three weeks.

Warren Campbell, Vera's father, would load his fruit every morning and go to Ogden to peddle fruit from door-to-door. Sometimes he would sell his crop; other days he would have to almost give them away to get rid of the produce. He had a large leather pouch for his money. Payment to his family was a penny a cup for picking berries.

Father and Mother were both very stern. Vera could never remember getting any whipping, but when looking back it seems like the children were always scared of the punishment they would get if they didn't mind. She never really got acquainted with her father well enough to talk to him.

Her Mother would have her make and bake bread. She would bake every other day making eight loaves, plus some biscuits or grease cakes (scones). Fifty pounds of flour were used every other

week. Vera's Father would always take a large load of wheat down to the flour mill every summer after wheat harvest and exchange it for enough flour to last the year. He built a large flour box that was kept in what they called the shanty.

North Ogden had a town celebration on the 4th of July and on the 24th. They would start the day off at sunrise by shooting cannons, and firecrackers. A band concert was given at 10:a.m. and patriotic programs that lasted until noon were also held. Decorated booths (on the Church grounds) were set up to sell popcorn, ice cream, candy and soda pop. In the afternoon the celebration would move to the town park, where there would be games, races and other entertainment, ending with a ball game between North Ogden and a neighboring town. At night there would be a large dance. On these occasions Vera's father would get out his money pouch, dump all his change onto the kitchen table and proceed to pay each child what they had earned up to that point in time. It was always a thrill because each child knew they would have some money to spend at the celebrations. They were allowed to spend about one dollar a day. Vera would generally spend about twenty-five cents in the morning and seventy-five cents in the afternoon.

Vera's parents traded butter and eggs for groceries at the local grocery store. It was always fun for Vera to get the chance to take the butter and eggs to the store since her mother would always give her an extra egg with which to buy some candy. She would always hold that egg in her hand until she had the groceries, and then she would select her candy. Her mother's butter was always in demand and the market would always be happy to see her when she came to trade butter and eggs for groceries.

Vera attended North Ogden Elementary School (which was located just north of the North Ogden LDS Church). She enjoyed school very much. Her favorite activity was being chosen to sing at the eighth grade graduation exercises. Every year, about three months before the close of school, the Weber County Music Director would come to school and listen to each student sing. He would then select the students for the chorus. Vera was chosen each year and that meant many practices at other schools until the arrival of graduation day. She also loved to play ball. Since she lived very close to school she would run home for lunch and then try to get back by the time the ball games started. They would play ball during their 20 minute morning and afternoon recess periods and also during the lunch hour. In the winter months they would take their sleigh to school and sleigh ride during the recess periods. The students would ride their sleighs down to the North Ogden Store (about six blocks from school) and then run back so they would not be late. There was plenty of snow on the roads because they were not cleared. In early spring it was great fun to play marbles. As soon as the first warm day came she would make marble holes and play the game. She won many marbles and had a large bag of them.

She was the only girl in her family that had the opportunity to attend high school. After much discussion, her parents consented to pay the tuition to attend Weber Academy. It was a Church school, the only other high school in Weber County was the Ogden High School. The tuition was \$25.00 and in-addition there were the costs of books and \$1.00 dollar per week for transportation. During her Freshman year she was on the indoor baseball team that took first place at their school's tournament.

After completing high school Vera obtained employment as an receptionist for Dr. Ira J. McKell (Chiropractor). There were not many opportunities for employment at that time. The opportunities were generally limited to summer work in the canning factories, housework and a few clerking jobs. While employed by Dr. McKell her hours were from 10:a.m. to 6 p.m. and from 9 a.m. until 12 noon on Saturdays. She was paid \$10.00 per week. Vera remained employed until three months after her marriage.

She married Ray Weldon Woodfield on March 27, 1925. The wedding took place in the Salt Lake Temple and Joseph Fielding Smith officiated. Ray is the son of John A. Woodfield and Margaret May Chadwick of North Ogden.

Their first home was a small two room brick home owned by Vera's father. It was located on 2100 North (Orton's Lane). It was just west of Ray's family home. The house was set back off the road, due to a wet pasture that was located next to the road. The home had no electric lights or running water at that time. There was a coal oil lamp they used for light that hung from the center of the ceiling. There was a small well in back of the house that provided water. The stream of water was so small that a bucket had to be kept under the well opening at all times so that they would have enough water to use. The water had a lot of mineral in it and so it was a constant chore to keep the buckets etc. scrubbed and clean. In July of that year Ray and Vera had the lights installed in the house. They were then able to buy an electric washing machine and clothes iron. It added a lot to their home. Prior to this time they obtained washwater from the irrigation ditch in back of the house or carried water from Ray's mother's home.

Vera's husband worked for his father and his Uncle Will Woodfield at a hourly rate of thirty five cents. The farm was owned jointly by the two Woodfield brothers and their father.

When Vera and Ray were married, Ray's father took them, along with Vera's mother, to the Bamberger station (electric railroad) so they could go to the Salt Lake LDS Temple. After they were married Vera's mother caught the train back to Ogden and Vera and Ray spent the night at the Newhouse Hotel. They then caught the Southern Pacific train to San Francisco for a short honeymoon. Ray contacted the flu and was confined to the hotel room for three days. After he regained his strength they took several tours around San Francisco. When they arrived home Ray's father was very upset that Ray had taken so much time off work and also because, in his opinion, they had spent so much money foolishly.

Ray continued to work with the family for a year and then the land was divided between his father and Uncle. Ray then worked for his father. There was no money coming in from the farm because it took so much to get a barn and machinery, so most of the time they had to use what savings Ray had in the bank to live on.

Norman, their first son, was born the following year, April 5, 1926. He was a fine son and brought much joy to their lives. When he was a little over 2 years old they were faced with the problem of having to find another place to live since Vera's brother was going to rent her father's farm and had to have the house to live in. This was because Vera's father had died the prior year. Ray's savings were used up and there was little income thus creating a real problem for them. Ray's

father said that he would sign a note for \$2,000 to provide funds to build a house. He also gave them a building lot just East of the family home. They then tried to locate a contractor that would build a home for \$2,000. George Wade and Sons from Pleasant View agreed to build a four room house with a bath and a full basement. Ray had to dig the basement and haul all of the sand and gravel from a gravel pit that was located near the Utah Hot Springs (6 miles from North Ogden). As soon as he started digging the basement, water became a difficult problem. Neighbors stated that they would never have a basement at that location. Ray had only dug about two feet before he came upon the water. Ray dug a ditch and drained all the water, put in a drain all around the walls of the house and in the bottom of the basement. In the meantime Ray's father dug a large well for their use and it turned out that there was enough water pressure for Ray and Vera to hook on to the well for their water supply.

The following winter on January 27, 1929, Keith, their second son, was born. That winter was very severe with lots of snow and wind. Vera's brother-in-law, Lewis Randall, was the road supervisor and had the job of keeping the roads open with a horse drawn snowplow. Every day before Keith was born Lewis would come down and open the road so that Ray and Vera would be able to get to the hospital when needed. Vera stayed in the hospital for 9 days. If she had not returned home when she did it would have been three more days at the hospital because of a severe East wind that filled all the roads with drifts of snow and completely tied up all traffic. Ray and Vera had moved into the home the summer prior to the birth of Keith. The home did not have weather stripping and so the wind would blow into the house and made it almost impossible to keep fires big enough to keep warm. The water would freeze in the pipes and Ray was always busy thawing out the pipes.

Three years later Arlo, the third son was born, Arlo lived only 24 hours. It was apparent after his birth that he would have had a struggle to live. It was another severe winter. The night Arlo was born it was snowing so hard that his parents could not see ahead and they became lost on their trip to the hospital.

Leon Warren, their fourth son, was born two years later, on January 13, 1934. That winter was completely different from the prior winters. There was no snow until a very small storm in February. Leon was a premature baby and for the first three months his parents wondered if he would live. After about four month he made a change and from then on he was well and a healthy baby. That summer was a very difficult one because the country was in the middle of the depression, and the farms almost dried up due to the lack of snow and rain. Ray practically lived with a shovel in his hands trying to make use of every bit of water there was. Nothing seemed to grow and mature. There was no money and everyone was losing their jobs and their homes. The Ogden State Bank closed it's doors and the bank examiners were trying to collect on the bank notes and mortgages. It looked like Ray and Vera would lose their home because there was no way to raise the money to pay off the mortgage. The Federal Government established a Home Loan program and helped many people, including Ray and Vera, to keep their homes.

During this period of time, families that lived on farms fared better then other's because they had food and other supplies available. At that time a case of eggs was worth about \$3.00. With that \$3.00 dollar you could buy all the groceries a family would need for the week. Leon's hospital bill

was \$25.00 for ten days and the doctor's bill was \$25.00. Ray and Vera did not have \$50.00 and so they borrowed the money from Ray's Aunt Lizzie Woodfield. Later Ray obtained an extra job working for the W.P.A. on a new road that was being constructed through North Ogden Canyon. Ray's father let him use the horses and he shared what he earned with his father. From this employment he earned enough to pay back his loan from his Aunt and also buy a much need bed.

Five and one half years later on August 12, 1939 their first and only daughter was born. Mary Lou was a beautiful and healthy baby and brought much joy and happiness to their lives. After she was born, Ray and Vera decided that if they were ever going to get ahead and pay off their home mortgage Ray would have to obtain employment away from the farm. (John A Woodfield's farm was large by local standards, however, there was a large family to support and the economics of farming had changed. The farm could no longer support the family. At the age of 40, Ray had to look for a new occupation. He first acquired 20 acres of land and attempted to earn a living by working the small farm and also working part-time as an employee for someone else. This proved to be an unsatisfactory solution. United States became actively involved in World War II which in-turn created a non-farm labor shortage. Ray left the farm and became, one of many, that found employment supporting the war effort by working at the Arsenal (a bomb plant)). It was while at this employment that they were able to earn enough money to pay off the mortgage. The family farm provided work for their sons. Ray's father always had plenty of work for his three grandsons and they were never idle. (Ray was born at a time when the family farm provided an income for most families and was the basic economic unit. The science of farming had changed very little. Within forty years, farming changed and many were ill prepared to be competitive in the changing economic environment. Ray had always wanted to be a history teacher. However, the needs of the farm and the extended family demanded that he continue until, at the age of 40, economic reality become a greater force than tradition and history. Ray and Vera adjusted the best they could given their age, obligations, family responsibilities, the world war, and available opportunities).

Norman was soon to graduate from high school. World War II was in it most sever stages. Norman always liked airplanes and was always building model planes and flying them. Because of this interest he decided to enlist in the United States Air Force. He was only 17 years old and to see him go to war so young was one of the hardest experiences his parents had to face. The war ended quickly, while Norman was still in training, so they were all happy that he hadn't been in any of the fighting. After coming home from the Air Force, Norman accepted a mission call to the New England Mission. He spent most of his time in Connecticut and Canada. He was given an honorable release after two years and came home in July. He obtained employment with the U. S. Forest Service until fall when he registered at Brigham Young University. Keith then received his mission call to New England. He spent most of his time in Vermont and had a very successful mission. After his release he spent a little time working and then enlisted in the Navy for two years.

Just before Norman came home from his mission it was necessary to provide additional room for the family so it was decided to finish the basement (two bedrooms) and also to enlarge the living room. Vera's mother had passed away and left Vera a few hundred dollars and with that money Vera purchased new linoleum for the kitchen, hall, bath and backporch and stairway. They also installed a coal furnace, got rid of their old coal stove and purchased a new electric range and refrigerator. With the additional room it certainly added to their home.

Leon went to Weber College for two years and graduated. He was unable to go on a mission because of the Korean War. Because of the war the U.S. Government had stopped the Church from sending out missionaries. By the time they lifted the restriction Leon was married. When Keith returned from the Navy, he and Leon registered for school at the University of Utah.

Norman graduated from BYU. He was married shortly prior to graduation. He accepted employment with the Ogden School District and was assigned to teach at the Dee School in Ogden. Both married, Keith and Leon were living in Salt Lake City. Norman taught school for two years and then decided to return to BYU and obtain his master degree. Keith and Leon both decided, after graduating with their B.S. degrees, that they would continue their education also. Norman, Keith, and Leon graduated with a master's degree and Mary Lou graduated from high school all in the spring of 1957.

Norman married a very lovely girl he met while attending school. Her name is Clementina Croom, from Wilmington, North Carolina. She was attending BYU. After teaching for two years they decided to move back to Provo, and live in school housing. Clem worked and helped Norman finish his education. At the present time they are living at LaPorte, Texas, but are planning on moving to California (Norman and family moved to California and then in the mid 1980's moved to Sandy, Utah). They have 5 living children. One little baby girl died while Norman was attending BYU. Their living children are Scott, Jerry, David, Susan and Brian. They have a beautiful home in Texas and are active in the Church. On March 7, 1966, Norman was ordained as the 2nd Counselor in the Bishopric.

Keith married a lovely girl from New York City, Juanita Wall. He met her at Mutual in New York after he was released from his mission. She had a brother and sister living in Salt Lake City so she came out to work and they continued their friendship until they married just before he left for the Navy. She lived in Ogden for a while, and then moved to San Diego, California and worked while Keith was there. She then she moved to New York and worked while he served his time in the Navy. They then came to Salt Lake and Keith continued his education. At the present time they have a lovely home and five children, Vickie, John Del, Vohn, Stephen, and Cary. Keith is teaching at a high school in LaMesa, California and their home is a few miles away in El Cajon. Keith loves teaching school. He and his wife are also very active in church work. He is the President of the Sunday School. (Keith died (1969) shortly after this history was written leaving his wife and five small children).

Leon married a girl he had known all through school, Janet Cragun, from Pleasant View, Utah. She is a very lovely and ambitious girl, very sincere in her church activities and is a very good helper for Leon in getting his college education. After obtaining his master degree Leon accepted employment with a national accounting firm (Arthur Young & Co.). They located in Los Angeles, California. After working for more than three years they returned to Utah to accept a faculty position with Brigham Young University. After teaching for three years they moved to East Lansing, Michigan to obtain his doctorate. Upon completing his degree they returned to BYU and now live in Springville where they have a lovely home. They have five children, Janalee, Heidi, Melia, Craig and Chris (Chris was not born at the time this history was written).

Mary Lou, being a girl, had different interest than her brothers. She loved to dance and took dancing lessons. She was active in the MIA dancing programs. For four years she participated in the MIA dance festivals in Salt Lake City during June Conference. she was also active in their music festivals. She attended college for one quarter and then decided to get married. She married Larry Bisons Baker from Ogden. Larry is a fine young ambitious man. They have five children; Bart, Troy and Tracie (twins), Kent and Holly (Holly was not born at the time this was written). They have a new home on the foothills of North Ogden. They are the only family members that live near Ray and Vera. They enjoy sports, skiing, boating, they have a camper that is used to go on many weekend trips with their family in the summer. Larry is a licensed plumber and makes a very good living for his family. Mary Lou is active in church work and teaches in Primary, Mutual and was the 1st Counselor in Mutual and at the present time is Organist for the Primary.

Vera started to work part time to help out financially. She first started clerking at J. C. Penney's on a part-time basis during the War. Before that she worked some in the canning factory. When Mary Lou was old enough to go to school, Vera obtained employment in the school lunch program. That worked out very well because Mary Lou and Leon both attended school and she could take them to school and would be home before they arrived on the school bus. Ray had quit working for the government and took employment as a building engineer at the same school where Vera worked. He took a large cut in wages to accept this employment, but felt that it would be more permanent than his former other position. He is still working there but expects to retire in July of this year (1967).

Vera worked at the School for five years. Then Vear's daughter-in-law, Clem, who was working at John Scowcroft's & Sons helped Vera obtain employment working in the office where she worked for seven years. The company was sold to a California corporation and her job was terminated. She then went to the hospital for a much needed operation, after which she obtained employment at Weber Central Dairy. She worked for Weber Central Dairy for five years and she then worked as a dental assistant for Dr. J. Reed Mackley retiring at the age of 62 in July of 1966. At the present time she is athome enjoying her time, very active in church, sewing, quilting, and working on her genealogy and family history. She then plans on working on her book of Remembrance.

In April 1962 she and Ray moved into a beautiful and lovely new brick home that her brother Don, husband, and son-in-law Larry, built. She enjoys her home very much and the fact that she has plenty of room for her children when they come to visit.

Vera has been active in church all of her life. She first started by singing in the ward choir when she was just a young girl. She, with three of her friends were asked to sing, and were given four seats in back of the organ, where they sat for many years. She has continued to sing in the Choir all of her life. She also sang in Mutual Song Festivals, Concerts, Relief Society Singing Mothers and in duets and quartets. She taught in Primary, was a Counselor in the Primary Presidency, served as President of the Primary and taught the special interest lessons for the Primary teachers for three years. She taught in Mutual as a Bee Hive, Mia Maid, and Laurel teacher. She was Sunday School chorister for five years and at the same time was on the Sunday School Stake Board with her

husband as Instructor leaders. At the present time she is the Cultural Refinement teacher in Relief Society and a Relief Society Visiting teacher.

She has done temple work in the Salt Lake, Logan, Idaho Falls, and Los Angeles Temples. She has met the following Church General Authorities: Joseph Fielding Smith, President David O McKay, Harold B. Lee, Mark E. Peterson and Dilworth Young.

She and her husband, and frequently some family members have been able to take many interesting trips. Some of the locations traveled to are: Canada; New York; Washington D. C.; Chicago; Wilmington, North Carolina; St. Louis; Colorado; Connecticut; Vermont; the Sacred Grove; Hill Cumorah; Joseph Smith's birthplace; Whittingham, Vermont; Nauvoo; Niagara Falls; Rochester, New York; Kirtland, Ohio; Kirtland Temple, East Lansing, Michigan; Detroit, Michigan; New York World's Fair; San Francisco; Oakland; Berkeley; Los Angeles; San Diego; LaMesa; El Cajon; Mexico; Portland, Oregon; and Seattle, Washington.

(One of their trips is of interest. Vera and Ray always planned their trips with care and were not impulse travelers. One trip was the exception. During the spring of 1967 they had a conviction (feeling) that something was going to happen to one or both of them. Upon leaving home, Vera told her husband that they had to return home since she did not have appropriate clothing. Upon coming out of the house Vera had, in hand, her best black dress and accessories. They traveled to Springville and spent the night with Janet, Leon and family. Then to Phoenix and El Cajon to visit Keith and family (they traditionally traveled first to Los Angeles and would visit Keith and family last). After visiting Keith, they continued their trip to Los Angeles to spent time with Norman and family. Upon arriving at Norman's home they received a phone call and were informed that Keith was in the hospital in critical condition. Rushing to El Cajon they found Keith in intensive care where he died two days later. They remained in El Cajon to assist the family and for Keith's funeral. Had they traveled their normal route they would not have been able to visit Keith prior to his death).

Vera loves her husband and family and is very proud of them. Her greatest desire is a useful life, to keep the commandments of God, and to be a good example to her family and friends.

(This history was written in 1967. Vera Jane Campbell Woodfield died in 1983. Between 1967 and 1983 she was very active with her family, visiting those in need, making and strengthening friendships, and living as taught by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The last eight years of her life were a challenge since she had failing health. Throughout this period she maintained a positive attitude, interest in her family, friends, and world events. Her greatest concern was of becoming a burden upon her loved ones. One of her favorite passing times was quilting quilts for family members and friends. She complained little about her lot in life, and was thankful for her blessings. Her husband, Ray, provided the loving care as needed during this period of time. On her last day on earth, she visited with family members from Springville (Leon, Janet, Janalee and Erin) and then, about 10 p.m. stated she was a little tired and indicated she wanted to retire for the night. She had a difficult night, at one point, requesting of the Lord, that she be taken. (Mary Lou and her husband spent the night attending to her needs). Finally, towards daybreak, her wish was granted).

September 17, 1983 - Ogden Standard Examiner

VERA C. WOODFIELD

North Ogden - Mrs. Vera Jane Campbell Woodfield, 79, of 567 E. 2100 N., North Ogden, died Friday September 16, 1983, at her home of causes incident to age.

She was born November 17, 1903, in Liberty, Utah, a daughter of Warren and Mary Eliza White Campbell.

She married Ray Weldon Woodfield, March 27, 1925, in the Salt Lake LSD Temple. She lived most of her life in North Ogden after moving from Liberty as a child.

She attended North Ogden Elementary School and Weber Academy. She was a member of the North Ogden LDS 4th Ward. She was a teacher in Primary, MIA, Relief Society, and was chorister in Primary, Sunday School and Relief Society. She had been a Relief Society visiting teach, choir director, and counselor and president of the Primary. She was active in temple and genealogy work.

She had worked as a office secretary. She had been a member of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers.

Surviving are her husband of North Ogden, two sons and one daughter, Norman R. Woodfield, Santa Paula, Calif; Leon W. Woodfield, Springville, Utah; Mrs. Larry (Mary Lou) Baker, North Ogden; 21 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two sons, J. Keith Woodfield and Arlo J. Woodfield and 13 brothers and sisters.

Funeral services will be held at the North Ogden 4th Ward Chapel, 1791 N. 600 E., Monday at 1 p.m. with Bishop Val F. Berrett officiating. Friends may call at Lindquist's North Ogden Mortuary, 2100 N. Washington, Sunday from 6 to 8 p.m. and Monday from 11 a.m. to noon at the mortuary. Interment in the North Ogden Cemetery.